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**One Hundred Eighth Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Select Committee on Homeland Security**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 1, 2004

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The Honorable Christopher Cox  
Chairman  
Select Committee on Homeland Security  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Chris:

Continued delays regarding the integration of terrorist watch lists are unacceptable. In the last month, the date for watch list completion has slipped by nine months. And, according to media reports, a senior official at the Department of Homeland Security has suggested that consolidation of watch list information into a single source may not be necessary. Here is a recent chronology of the watch list issue:

- September 2003: After shifting responsibility for terrorist watch list four times over two years, Administration announces that the new Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) would open December 1, 2003, under the direction of the FBI.
- December 2003: TSC opens, but admits to limited capability. The FBI later acknowledges that the project to integrate all watch list information would not be completed until March, 2004.
- February 12, 2004: Secretary Ridge testifies before Select Committee on Homeland Security and states that TSC will not be completed until the end of the summer, 2004.
- February 23, 2004: Department of Homeland Security releases 2004 Strategic Plan listing watch list completion as a top priority for 2004, but projects that this will not occur until the end of 2004.
- February 25, 2004: DHS CIO, Steven Cooper (as reported yesterday in GovExec.com) suggests that watch list consolidation into a single source may not be necessary: "...we can deliver the equivalent... even though it's not coming from a single, consolidated source." This position conflicts with DHS's Strategic Plan, which states that "there will

be a fully integrated watch list database in the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC).”

The repeated delays and excuses on the issue of terrorist watch list integration by both the FBI and DHS are hard to comprehend. Our Committee should exercise its oversight responsibilities and hold a hearing immediately on this issue of urgent national security importance.

I look forward to working with you to make sure that we solve this problem as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", with a large, loopy flourish extending from the bottom left of the signature.

Jim Turner  
Ranking Member

cc: Democratic Members of the  
Select Committee on Homeland Security